

# ALMOST NINE MILLION AMERICANS OUT OF WORK

*"There aren't any jobs, just not any. I had been waiting it out...  
But it turns out there is nothing. It's a dead-end street."*

-- Bill Jacobs, *Single Father in Pittsburgh* [NYT 4/27/03]

Since January of 2001, the number of unemployed has increased by over 45 percent, with 8.8 million Americans out of work. Since the beginning of the Bush Administration, 2.7 million private sector jobs have been lost. Over 500,000 jobs have been lost in the past three months alone, with 48,000 jobs lost in April. [BLS 5/2/03] And the White House is still clinging to a flawed tax break plan for the wealthy that economists agree will cause the loss of an additional 750,000 jobs over the next 10 years. [Mark Zandi, Economy.com, 1/03]

## AMERICA'S JOBLESS RECOVERY

**Unemployment continues to rise, with African Americans and Hispanics bearing the brunt of the economic downturn.** Today, the Federal government reported that unemployment increased to 6 percent, with 8.8 million people still out of work. The unemployment rate among African Americans was 10.9 percent, almost twice the national average. The unemployment rate among Hispanics was 7.5 percent. [BLS, 5/2/03]

**On track for the worst job creation in 58 years.** President Bush currently has the weakest record on job growth since the Eisenhower Administration, which created only 15,000 jobs a month in the second term. In order for the Bush Administration to tie with the Eisenhower Administration for the worst job creation record ever, President Bush would have to create 130,000 jobs a month starting today, and continuing through the end of his term. He would have to create 216,000 jobs a month in order to match the job creation record of the first Bush Administration. [BLS 5/03; AFL-CIO, 1/27/03]

**Long-term unemployment on the rise.** In February, nearly 2 million people had been unemployed for over 6 months; triple the number at the beginning of the Bush Administration. They made up about 22 percent of all unemployed people. [BLS, 5/2/03]

**Unemployment spells are lengthening because companies aren't hiring.** The average number of weeks individuals spent unsuccessfully seeking work increased by almost a month over the past year. About 40 percent of the unemployed have been looking for work for over three months. [BLS 5/2/03]

**Surge in discouraged workers masks true impact of economic downturn.** The dramatic downturn in employment has been masked in part because so many people have either left the labor force or decided not to try to find a job until the economy starts to get better. Currently, 1.4 million people are marginally attached to the labor force, and about 437,000 of these workers have stopped looking for work altogether because they believe no work is available. [BLS 5/2/03]

## ECONOMISTS SAY: BUSH PLAN WILL NOT CREATE JOBS

**Bush tax break for the wealthy will not create jobs.** The Congressional Budget Office, the White House Council of Economic Advisers, and the private sector economists that helped the President analyze his proposal have all stated that his tax break plan won't create jobs and will weaken the long-term health of our economy. [CBO, 3/03; Mark Zandi, Economy.com, 1/03; CEA, 2/4/03; WP 4/29/03]